

NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

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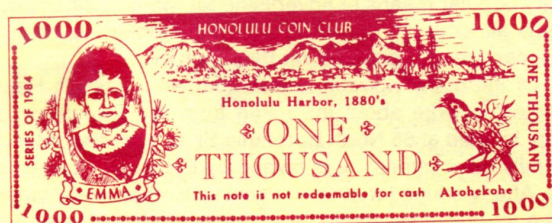


Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



HCC Christmas Party

BY IRVING KAM



Whether you realize it or not, the Christmas Season looms on the horizon and is fast approaching. I seem to recall just making the final payment on last year's charge card tab, yet already, I can hear the Retailers Association yelling "Hana Hou"! But the Holidays bring mostly cheerful times and the Honolulu Coin Club will add to this with its annual Christmas party.

Repeating last year's successful theme of "A Gala Night in Las Vegas", Club members and their guests will get a chance to use the new paper "currency" for the games and in the auction. These bills, the third in a series, was created and produced by Charlie Matsuda exclusively for the party and will only be available on that one night. Adding a little variety this year, Charlie has designed only four denominations and they mimic the size of those old "Horse Blankets". The artwork is Hawaii-oriented and depicts famous battle scenes like the Death of Captain Cook, Battle of Nuuanu, Battle of Iao Valley, and the Attack on Pearl Harbor. Again, two sets of uncut sheets will be auctioned off at the end of the evening and should generate some spirited bidding by the "heavier" collectors. Be sure to save a C.U. set of these bills as they are very collectible and all remaining or redeemed notes will be destroyed.

Because of the great food and personable people, the HCC party will again be held at the Daikoku Catering. The date is December 15th, a Saturday, and the fun starts at 6:00 p.m. The address is 1085 South Beretania St., near Pensacola. So plan to attend and I hope to see you there.

Aloha! Pau.



21ST HSNA SHOW

BY M. F. KENDRICK

When the last two (2) dealers picked up their luggage from the Security room, I was able to breathe a sigh of relief. The 21st Annual HSNA Coin Show came to a successful end. Many of the dealers informed me that they were very happy with the show and were planning to return next year. This was due to the outstanding security (provided by H.P.D. Officers) under the direction of Greg Hunt and Wayne Yakuma and through the efforts and hard working support provided by the Coin Club members.

There were over 75 dealers present at the show of which many shared a table as there were only 65 bourse tables available. The Hawaiian Mint which struck our medals this year was present with many of the medals they had designed and produced on display at their table.

Dealers from all over the United States were present with all kinds of items for sale. Because of the maximum use for bourse tables, we had to reduce the number of exhibits. No awards were given. However, we wish to recognize those individuals who were able to display their collections: Francis Damon, Susanna Hunt, Roy Kaneshiro, Holly and Gary Lau, Bill Lytle, Frank Reiplinger, Crane Saito, and W.K. Young.

Also, to those who would have displayed we say Mahalo.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the dealers and club members who had a part in making this year's show a success. Without their help and dedication it would not have been possible.

Mahalo!

Glory to God

in the highest,

and on earth peace,

good will

toward men.

St. Luke 1,2:17



HCC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Honolulu Coin Club Members,

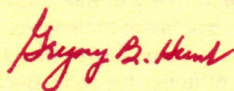
As Christmas 1984 descends upon us, let me personally take this time to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

This year brings to an end the twenty-ninth year of the Honolulu Coin Club and the beginnings of our thirtieth anniversary. This year has been a banner year with increased membership and highly successful coin shows throughout the year. Next year brings us much of the same and we, the board of directors, have started to usher in the new year with our new book written by Charles Matsuda and Irving Kam. This book is the complete guide to the Honolulu Coin Club's medals, tokens and pin. Also we have had a special anniversary coin issued in bronze and silver for the occasion. It was a tremendous job done by Charlie again. Finally we have already signed up over fifty members for 1985 at the HSNA Coin Show '84. We are off to a super start and I hope a continuation of fine things to come.

The last major event of 1984 for the Honolulu Coin Club is our annual Christmas Party. This year it will again be at the Dai-ko-ku Restaurant at 1085 S. Beretania St. on December 15, 1984 from 6:30 p.m. til 11 p.m. I hope that all of the membership and their guests can attend this gala event. There will be good food and lots of prizes for all that attend.

Finally I would like to thank each one of you who have shared your love, support, time, and effort to make this a better club.

Mahalo Nui Loa,



Gregory Hunt
President of the
Honolulu Coin Club



NEW HAWAII TOKEN CATALOG



A TOUCH OF HAWAIIANA

WOODEN TOKEN

BY GARY LAU



The first wooden nickel was introduced in 1933 at the Chicago World's Fair. Since then, the wooden nickel has become a very popular means of advertising for many businesses. The tokens all focus on the weakness of customers to return with the incentive of a discount on their next visit.

Of the many wooden nickels that were used in Hawaii, I selected to write about the token from the Sweetheart's Lei Shop, located at 65 North Beretania St. in downtown Honolulu. A family-run business, it is owned by Elizabeth "Sweetheart" Lau. After working for over 30 years with other family members in the lei business, Sweetheart made a family decision to try their hand at opening a shop themselves. The Sweetheart's Lei Shop was opened on June 21, 1982.

The lei business is seasonal, with proms and graduation at the head of the list. Hard work and determination have made the shop a real success. The interior of the lei shop has become a Hawaiian Museum with walls adorned with posters, postcards, menus and other Hawaiian mementos. During the first anniversary, wooden nickels were distributed to the customers for a 50¢ discount on the next purchase. The tokens are given out every year for a week during the anniversary.

If you're in the neighborhood, drop in to say Hi to Sweetheart, Henry Sr. and Jr., Brenda, Willy, Lucky, Mike, Boyd, Holly and myself! You see, I'm part of this wonderful family.

Honolulu Coin Club members Irving Kam and Charles Matsuda, have just completed their new book which should be released by the time you are reading this. Entitled the "Honolulu Coin Club Collectibles Catalog", this fully illustrated soft cover text lists all known medals and tokens issued by the Club since its inception in 1955. All proceeds from this publication goes in to the HCC general fund and it should be noted that the authors did almost every aspect of putting a book together themselves. Taking just a little less than a year's time, they did the research, laying out, pasting up, collating, hand folding the covers, stapling etc., and even handled the financing. Presently the new catalog will be available at Club meetings and at the Hawaii State Numismatic Association's Convention in November, but plans for a wider distribution base, including the mainland, is in progress. The price for the Kam/Matsuda first edition publication was not available at this time.



TALKING STORY

BY IRVING KAM

The year 1981 saw the coin market still slipping down from a place we sometimes refer to as "Fantasyland". Unheard of highs were quickly dissipating, stopping only to go sideways. And armed with only a personal coin collection and a natural inclination for challenge, James Kinoshita opened a coin shop in a location not considered great. Yet, almost four years later, Downtown Coin Gallery has survived, though in a different location, and it is still business as usual, Monday through Saturday.

I first met "Jimmy" at his original 1020 Smith Street location before renovation forced his move to the Arcade Building. I remember his honest, easy going disposition as my first impression and although the coin market hasn't changed much, he has retained that same quality. We had some time to talk recently while all the town people scrambled in the four o'clock hassle to get home. I learned he started collecting at around age ten filling holes in those blue Whitman folders given to him by his father. First, the Buffalo nickels and later Lincoln cents and Mercury dimes. Having an aunt who was a cashier in the Tax Office helped to boost his collection and he often traded "dupes" among friends. He also had non-coin related interests like baseball cards, models, and marbles, much like the fondness he developed for the older classic cars during his high school years. For this is when, while a student at Leilehua High, he found himself growing more serious about coins and started working after school and Saturdays to support his numismatic habit. Staying strictly with the U.S. issues, he constantly kept upgrading while buying and selling off of his Wahiawa neighborhood coin shop's bid board. Reaching the driving age was an important breakthrough for James as he now had transportation to "hit" all the other coin shops and shows on the island. He began participating in mainland auctions through the mail from firms like Stacks, RARCOA, and the then Bowers and Ruddy. He developed a special attraction for proof coins and spent a good percentage of his coin money in that direction. Proof sets, type proofs, and frosted were high on his list. He remembers proof Walkers were offered at about 75 dollars, proof Indian cents sold for 85 dollars, and proof Shield nickels in the 150 dollar range. James started an 1883 proof set but had to sell the pieces before its completion as he was more in to dealing and needed the money to buy more stock. This set is still impressed in the back of his mind and he would like to put one together some day. As for the frosted coins, problem-free examples were more available then and had an added eye-appealing quality which struck his fancy. We all know what happened to the frosted market. Prices soared through the roof with no corrections and they still command a hefty premium. James kept dealing throughout his college years. Working the floor of the local shows and buying and selling wherever and whenever he was on the mainland. Bigger shows like the Maryland State or the West Coast circuit and even small city shops and shows were always on his itinerary. He still deals with some of the contacts he made during those early years and now that he owns a shop, they seek him out for their numismatic needs.

Besides the downtown business crowd, James has a steady stream of regulars, collectors and investors alike, looking for their specialties. With this kind of a down market, it's difficult to buy better pieces, and with today's prices, it's hard to keep these better pieces in stock. His new purchases never seem to reach his showcases—especially the Gems. A great majority of these coins are placed as soon as they come in over the counter. He does, however, manage to keep his store stock items at a constant level as much as possible. He handles all the coin accessories like holders, coin albums, and reference books. Information is still free. He utilizes the bid board concept to stir up some action and there have been some good deals up there every week. I even notice other dealers frequenting the board on quite a regular basis. A vast array of U.S. coins, foreign, Hawaiiana, medals and tokens, coin jewelry, etc., are all represented here. It doesn't cost you anything to become a member and you can either buy or sell off of the board. Just ask James for details. The Downtown Coin Gallery is located at 212 Merchant Street near the Main Post Office.

As for what he considers a good buy today, James leans toward the uncirculated "modern" silver issues like Roosevelt dimes, Washington quarters, or Franklin halves. He also likes gold coins, type coins, proof coins, and feels there are some super buys in the foreign coinage area. He recommends bullion on a long term basis in the form of both used coins and bars.

James admits to not having much leisure time as he spends his non-coin hours as a Captain in the Hawaii National Guard. He is a Company Commander in the Supply and Service Section of the 292nd Division stationed out at Wahiawa. Having been an A.N.A. member for a number of years, he also belongs to the local clubs and organizations and regularly donates time and coins to the Honolulu Coin Club functions. We'd like to thank James for sharing his experience and knowledge of our chosen pastime and I would like to extend a personal Mahalo for letting me hang around his shop for hours at a time. By being there, I have come to the stark realization that being a full-time proprietor of a coin show is a Hell of a tough way to make a living. I suppose there are the good sides to the business and who knows, maybe we will someday return to that coin dealers' Heaven called "Fantasyland".

Aloha! Pau.

HSNA - THE DAY AFTER

To the "Monday Morning Crew":

Donald Eguchi, Elmer Hamano, Irving Kam, Marion Kendrick, Charlie Matsuda, Warner Pukini (and his gloves), Crane Saito, Alban Sasabuchi, Glenn Yokoyama, and Wah Kui Young.

Thanks for that little extra!

A VERY SPECIAL
MAHALO
AND ALOHA!



THE 442ND RCT AND NUMISMATICA

BY KAZUMA OYAMA



obverse



reverse

The Honolulu Coin Club's wooden token for its August 1983 show commemorated the 40th anniversary of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of World War Two fame. This year marks the 40th anniversary of their most widely publicized battle—the rescue of the 36th Infantry Division's "Lost Battalion". Although it is always referred to as the "Japanese-American" outfit, most of the original commissioned officers were haoles (whites). In fact, most of the members of the Combat Team will tell you that they were effective in combat because of the leadership of some of these haole officers who led them into combat. Also, the Combat Team was fortunate to be part of great infantry divisions such as the 34th and 36th, and to have fought alongside other outstanding outfits such as the 3rd, 45th, 85th and 91st U.S. Infantry Divisions, as well as the British troops. The 442nd also had the distinction of having served with another "minority group"—the all black 92nd "Buffalo" Division.

Much has been written about the exploits of the 442nd so this article is about their "encounter with numismatica". When the members of the 442nd left Hawaii in 1943, all the men were required to turn in the "Hawaii" overprinted money for the regular bills. Based on my experience of helping with the exchange, I would say that the average amount of money turned in by each person was about \$300.00. Just think, if each person could have stashed away the "Hawaii" notes instead of exchanging them, they would be worth several times the face value today as most of the bills were still crisp and clean. And who knows—there may have been a few star notes!

The second encounter with numismatica was while stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, near the town of Hattiesburg. Mississippi had a sales tax at that time and issued tokens worth one mil (one-tenth of a cent). These tokens were made of fiberboard and a day in town usually resulted in a handful of these small dime-sized change. Today, there are people who eagerly pursue the hobby of collecting this type of token.

The third encounter was while the men were in Europe and using Allied currencies. I think most of the men came home with a few crumpled up souvenir notes. Once again, if the fu-

ture had been foreseeable and each man had sent home some of the crisp Allied currencies when received on pay days, some of the notes would have appreciated quite a bit as collector's items.

Among the souvenirs that I brought home is a dirty and much-folded United States series 1917 Legal Tender \$1.00 note that a German soldier had when we processed the German troops into camp in Italy soon after the war ended there. How did he come in possession of the bill? I wish I could have found out! I also brought home some Italian and French notes and coins which formed the basis for my foreign currency collection when I decided on it as a hobby in 1973, when I medically retired from my civil service job with the U.S. Air Force at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.



Honolulu Coin Club

COMING SOON

A CONTEST!

SEE THE NEXT ISSUE OF
NU HOU DALA PAA

APRIL 1985

*Coin Shows
in the
Hawaiian Islands*



HSNA MINI SHOW

4TH ANNUAL

SUSANNAH WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

MAY 4, 1985 SATURDAY



HONOLULU COIN CLUB

Statehood Show

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

VON HOLT ROOM

AUGUST 17, 1985 PENDING



HSNA SHOW

HAWAII'S LARGEST COIN SHOW

QUEEN KAPIOLANI HOTEL

OCTOBER 31, 1985

NOVEMBER 1-2-3 1985

*Honolulu Coin Club
Meetings*

The Honolulu Coin Club meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.; Susannah Wesley Community Center with Club President, Gregory Hunt; presiding. Visitors and guests are always welcome at the meetings.

**HONOLULU COIN CLUB
30TH
ANNIVERSARY!**

IF YOU COLLECT COINS, CURRENCY, TOKENS, MEDALS OR ANY OTHER NUMISMATIC ITEMS, 1985 WILL BE A GREAT YEAR TO JOIN THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB.

THE CLUB WILL BE CELEBRATING IT'S 30th ANNIVERSARY IN 1985.

Here's a chance to enjoy collecting as a club

member, meet other members, dealers and even have a chance to win some door prizes or participate in our auctions. **GOOD THINGS ARE COMING IN 1985! SO, JOIN US!**





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